



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, July 18 2007
Contact: Allison Bussler – Chief of Staff, (262) 548-7902

Vrakas Proposes Smoking Restrictions at County Facilities

WAUKESHA – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas sent an ordinance to the County Board for approval at its meeting in August to limit or restrict public and employee outside smoking areas around the Waukesha County Government Center.

If passed, starting on September 1, smoking will be prohibited within 40 feet of any entrance to these buildings: Courthouse, Administration Center, Health and Human Services Center, Justice Center, Public Health Center, Mental Health Center, and Juvenile Center.

“More than 7,000 Wisconsinites die because of the direct effects of smoking every year,” said Vrakas. “By limiting the areas where the public and employees are able to smoke on our campus, we hope to reduce the secondhand effects for people that do not want to come in contact with tobacco-based products.”

There are four exceptions to the policy, which involve the Jail, Mental Health Center, the Human Services Center and the connected Courthouse and Administration Center. There will be two designated smoking areas at the Jail; one designated smoking area for patients and employees at the Mental Health Center; one designated smoking area at the Human Services Center, which is less than 40 feet from building entrance; and a specific area within the cafeteria courtyard at the Courthouse/Administration Center that will be located further than 40 feet from the building entrance and benches will be provided.

The County will sponsor a 7-week Freedom from Smoking program through the American Lung Association for employees that may want to take this opportunity to quit smoking. The program takes a positive approach to smoking cessation and provides a quit day during the third week.

###